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Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 52/70 B of 10 December 1997, the General Assembly requested "the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twentieth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on United Nations public information activities and on the implementation of the measures regarding information and communications approved by the Assembly".

2. Two reports were submitted to the Committee on Information at its twentieth session, held from 4 to 15 May 1998:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the measures regarding information and communications (A/AC.198/1998/2); and

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (A/AC.198/1998/3 and Corr.1).

In addition, at the request of the Committee on Information, the Secretary-General prepared a report on the development of United Nations international broadcasting capacity (A/AC.198/1998/4), for consideration by the Committee at a resumed meeting scheduled to take place in late October 1998.

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information provided additional substantive information in his opening statement to the Committee.

4. The deliberations of the Committee on Information at its twentieth session are reflected in its report to the General Assembly. The present report responds to resolution 52/70 B and updates the information previously provided, avoiding, as much as possible, duplication of the material contained in the reports submitted to the Committee.

II. Overview

5. Since the previous report on questions relating to information (A/52/455), consultations on the reorientation of the work of the Department of Public Information contributed to the identification of the major strategic objectives and functional priorities that would characterize the new orientation of the Organization's communications and information policies and programmes. The necessary conceptual framework for such policies was elaborated in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the measures regarding information and communications (A/AC.198/1998/2) submitted to the Committee on Information for consideration at its twentieth session (4 to 15 May 1998). The main elements of this framework, which bear repetition in this report, are as follows:

(a) To place the communications and information functions at the heart of the strategic management of the Organization, given their central role in building public and political support for the United Nations;

(b) To help develop a culture of communications throughout the Organization, in order to communicate, in cooperation with the programmes, funds and specialized agencies, the direct relevance of every aspect of United Nations work to the daily lives and concerns of people everywhere;

(c) To project the Organization as an open, transparent and public institution which has the capacity to meet the principal peace, development and human rights objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

(d) To strengthen the Organization's ability to communicate at the country and regional levels – the levels at which public opinion is created – and to ensure that the global messages of the United Nations both reflect and are tailored to national orientations;

(e) To continue to strengthen the Organization's capacity to use the latest information technologies to reach audiences around the globe;

(f) To follow closely the strategic guidance and direction of the General Assembly on the implementation of mandates, while accepting much greater responsibility for formulation of specific programmes designed to meet mandated goals;

(g) To develop and strengthen the capacity to deploy given resources flexibly to meet exigent challenges, while maintaining the commitment to mandated priorities;

(h) To strengthen further the Department's capacity to work together with other parts of the Organization to design and implement communications and information strategies for their substantive and thematic objectives.

6. Only the vigorous implementation of the compelling communications priorities listed above will ensure the kind of global public support that is indispensable to the long-term survival of the Organization. To translate these priorities into an operational framework, the actions listed below, developed with full participation of the staff of the Department, are being undertaken or will be undertaken shortly.

A. Policy and strategic direction

7. Communications policy and strategy will be continuously reviewed, to ensure that it reflects the goals and priorities enunciated by the General Assembly and the Secretary-General; the programmes and outputs of all departmental units will also take their lead from these agreed priorities. A Strategic Communications Planning Group, as described in the Secretary-General's report to the Committee on Information (A/AC.198/1998/2), has already begun functioning. The Group helps to formulate, refine and, as needed, shift departmental goals and strategies and ensure that all parts of the Department are working synergetically towards achieving agreed results. The Group also formulates campaigns on priority concerns and ensures interdivisional coordination and execution of all high-priority operations.

B. The Internet

8. Technological progress has perhaps had its most profound impact in the communications and information field, with the Internet leading the information revolution. The United Nations must therefore take full advantage of this new "fourth" medium – along with the three traditional media – print, radio and television. The Department of Public Information has been in the forefront in this context and will continue to strengthen its role in managing and coordinating the United Nations website, especially its public information content. Moreover, as coordinator of the Interdepartmental Working Group, which it chairs, the Department is continuing to enhance its assistance on Internet matters to other parts of the Secretariat. As part of the reorientation measures, the Internet operation has been located in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, and in pursuit of the indication given to the Committee on Information last May, a Director-level official has been placed in charge of the Information Technology Section, which also reports directly to the Under-Secretary-General.

9. A new "media" segment on the United Nations website will provide information materials created expressly for the Internet and presented in a manner that the media can readily utilize. The Department plans to significantly increase the volume of its posting of multimedia material, including regular radio news and updates, and will also introduce and host online chats with United Nations experts on various issues. It is also continuing work towards the expansion of the United Nations website to include all official languages of the Organization.

C. Reaching the media

10. Ultimately, effective communication of the United Nations message, and its relevance, will depend significantly upon how well the message is projected to the media. It must be inserted consistently into the global news cycle and news pool. In pursuit of this objective, a lively, responsive media capacity is being developed, centred around a strengthened news disseminating capacity sharply tuned to media needs and to building closer media contacts.

11. Given the centrality of timeliness for news media access – information arriving even an hour late for a newscast or newspaper is often no longer news – the Internet and other forms of electronic communications will be developed into the principal vehicle for enhancing access.

D. Media Response Group

12. In order to improve its capacity to react quickly to media reports about the Organization and its activities, a Media Response Group has been assembled within the Department. The Group reviews such media reports and provides appropriate and timely advice to the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. The Group is also responsible for updating the Department's fact sheets in the series "Setting the record straight".

E. Writers' Group

13. A central Writers' Group, capable of responding quickly to the need for clear, coherent information material on breaking stories, will further strengthen the Department's news dissemination operation. Working closely with existing news operations, including the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, the Group will generate customized scripts which can be used for live radio broadcasts or for posting on the Internet, and short news stories written in a form that the news media can directly utilize. It will also be responsible for postings on the "media" segment of the United Nations website.

F. Building global partnerships

14. Building global partnerships for the Organization will be a key task for the Department. Partnerships with civil society, which often looks actively to the United Nations for

support and leadership, provide an unprecedented opportunity to make people everywhere recognize the Organization as an indispensable global institution for the maintenance of peace and also for addressing the everyday concerns of people in all societies: human rights, development, environment, employment, health, education, crime, drugs, etc.

15. In pursuit of this objective, the Department will continue to develop stronger working links with non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups such as academia, the business community and youth. Working through United Nations associations, both at Headquarters and in the field, links will be established with national figures supportive of the Organization who can be its advocates and come to its defence when it is being unjustly criticized.

16. Educational institutions continue to be increasingly important partners for the Department and its channel to the younger generations. The Department's programmes for students and teachers have been updated very substantially and will be given a high priority as part of the new orientation of communications policies.

G. Partnerships within the Secretariat

17. The information media, as our most important partners in disseminating information about the Organization's activities, continue to be a major focus within the new orientation. Media representatives expect a continuous flow of accurate and newsworthy information from the Organization. To further facilitate such a flow will be the principal objective of the Department. In this context, the Department's close partnership built with the corps of resident correspondents will be further strengthened.

18. The Department is committed to the creation of a true culture of communications within the Organization. It will work closely with all substantive offices to prepare and implement individually tailored strategies and help identify and promote the many positive, news-making aspects of their activities.

H. Communications at the field level

19. Since public opinion is essentially created at the national and regional levels, the United Nations information centres worldwide have been a vital medium of both outreach and information for the Organization and will become even more crucial as the United Nations system in the field comes together in the proposed "United Nations houses". All centres, including the integrated United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) field offices, will present a uniform United Nations message at the national level, ensuring the effective implementation of the public information mandates established by the General Assembly. Measures are being considered to rectify the difficulties experienced by a number of integrated centres in this context.

I. Direct radio broadcasting capacity

20. In a congested global media environment where the United Nations message can easily be marginalized, the development of a United Nations international radio broadcasting capacity for direct communication with the public is an important project for the Department of Public Information. It would allow for direct and cost-effective information delivery for the entire United Nations system, particularly at times of crisis and in support of the public information needs of peacekeeping and humanitarian emergency operations. A feasibility study on the resumption of direct radio broadcasting by the United Nations is being conducted by the Committee on Information, which will submit its recommendations to the General Assembly.

J. Total quality management

21. The Department has adopted a "total quality management" approach to its outputs, each of which will be carefully reviewed to ensure that it meets a priority goal, that there is a real demand for it, and that it is being produced and disseminated in the most speedy, cost-effective and efficient manner.

III. Electronic communication and use of the Internet

22. The Department will continue to strengthen its coordinating, managing and policy guidance role on content matters for the Secretariat's Internet activities. Every section and unit of the Department is encouraged to incorporate this technology into its day-to-day functions and thus develop closer cooperation with other Secretariat departments.

23. Since the beginning of the year, the Department has launched a United Nations home page in Russian and begun to create home pages in Arabic and Chinese. It has added a

number of departmental home pages and links to the United Nations website and provided coverage of several conferences in multiple languages. The number of accesses went from 5,304,772 in January 1998 to 6,601,490 in August 1998. The numbers of queries and of feedback have also increased. At present, the United Nations home page is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

24. All press releases issued by the Department are now posted on the Internet, in English and French, as are comprehensive summaries of daily briefings by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General and texts of the Secretary-General's statements, for immediate access by the news media and the public at large.

25. The Department has expanded its outreach and response capacity to the community of non-governmental organizations through a link on the United Nations website. Beginning in 1998, the Department started coordinating and regularly updating a system-wide calendar of special events and observances at Headquarters which is available on the United Nations website.

26. The United Nations CyberSchoolBus, the Department's online education project, continues to be successful, drawing a record number of accesses and reaching out to thousands of schools around the world. Schools and students in over 80 countries have received educational materials on global issues and the work of the United Nations, and over 800 schools have been actively involved in carrying out peace, human rights and environmental projects initiated through the CyberSchoolBus.

27. Electronic communications played an important role in boosting the dissemination capabilities of a number of United Nations information centres. In Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, 14 centres developed Internet websites in local languages, and an additional 13 sites are under preparation.

IV. Public information programme activities

28. In accordance with the mandate set out in General Assembly resolution 52/70 B and in order to meet the objectives set by the Secretary-General, the activities of the Department in elaborating, coordinating, and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information continue to be strengthened and improved.

29. The Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General has broadened the scope of the daily briefing for correspondents to include the work of all organizations of the United Nations system. An effort has also been made to include information on the humanitarian, human rights and development work of the Organization, in addition to the political, while respecting the need to focus on the newsworthy. Members of the Spokesman's staff have assignments like those of a journalist, and develop topical and regional specialities on which they can speak with authority. The overall objective is for the Office to be a reliable source of information not just on the Secretary-General but on the system as a whole. Also, the Office attempts to treat all media organizations equally and does not provide specialized briefings to selected journalists.

30. As part of its new orientation, the Department is putting hard news at the core of its operations in radio, television and print. The radio production and dissemination operations have embarked on a new course of modernization and programme restructuring. The new programming orientation is designed to expand the focus of thematic production to incorporate new and pressing issues mandated by intergovernmental bodies, integrate programme output into the daily news cycle, and enhance programme delivery. Daily radio news bulletins in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese are relayed via telephone lines and the Internet to hundreds of broadcasters in Africa and Latin America. Also, news bulletins in English, French and Spanish are posted regularly and updated on the audio-visual site of the home page for use by the general public. The *Daily Highlights* bulletin is currently being modified with a news service format, using the Internet for instantaneous dissemination.

31. Before the end of the year, the Department will introduce a direct radio broadcasting pilot project in selected regions of the world, initially in English and French, to test market interest and production capacity. As stated above in paragraph 20, a feasibility study on an international broadcasting capacity is being conducted by the Committee on Information.

32. As part of its efforts to strengthen relationships with media institutions, in November 1997 the Department organized the second United Nations World Television Forum, in co-sponsorship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Radiotelevisione Italiana and Mediaset. The Forum, held on the theme "Television in the new multi-media environment", provided a venue for an ongoing professional dialogue between the United Nations and the television industry. The Department is also expanding its cooperation with outside broadcasters. With Deutsche Welle,

BBC World Service and Insight News Television, among others, it has organized television news feature coverage missions to several United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. The Department has also increased its cooperation with such United Nations agencies as the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The sale of documentaries, such as "Secrets in the Sand", is part of the Department's effort to provide products that are competitive with those of mainstream production sources and relevant to the needs of news editors and programme buyers.

33. The trial plan to provide no-cost television production facilities to resident correspondents was a success and has been made permanent. Recent major events covered by United Nations Television include the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and the International Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. The 1997 United Nations Day Concert was produced as a television programme by the Department and broadcast live in Portugal and Brazil. The "stakeout" coverage by United Nations Television is now also done live, and consequently, the coverage is often broadcast live on the various cable news television channels.

34. Digital photography is regularly used to transmit photo coverage from the field to Headquarters and to news agencies, resulting in far more rapid distribution and posting on the Internet. Using this technology, for example, photo coverage of the Secretary-General's mission to Iraq earlier this year was available to the media almost instantaneously.

35. A feasibility study on the integration of the Department's media archives was recently completed. This integration, coupled with the advantages of strategic technology, will result in increased efficiency and the elimination of duplication. Audio-visual products will be easily and effectively stored, searched, retrieved, shared and distributed in a variety of environments.

36. The Department continues to strengthen links with a growing number of national and international non-governmental organizations. The fifty-first Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations was held at Headquarters (14 to 16 September 1998) on the theme "The fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: from words to deeds". Over 2,500 non-governmental organizations from many countries registered to attend the Conference.

37. Nearly half a million visitors take the Department's guided tour of Headquarters each year, and the numbers are rising. A new reservations and scheduling system has been introduced, to improve efficiency. Efforts are under way to improve the tour route using extrabudgetary resources.

38. Throughout the past year, increasing attention has been paid to outreach activities for students and educators. Whether through workshops for teachers, to encourage and equip them to bring the United Nations into the classroom, or "Students' days at the United Nations", highlighting observances such as Human Rights Day and World Environment Day, or through general interest and reference publications intended for school use, the Department seeks both to broaden interest in the work of the Organization and deepen understanding of its role and relevance.

39. The Department continues to help plan and coordinate a number of special events and programmes. An observance of World Press Freedom Day, organized by the Department in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Correspondents Association, and the World Press Freedom Committee, was held on 4 May 1998. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the observance featured a panel discussion on article 19 of the Declaration, in which a number of distinguished broadcasters and journalists participated.

40. The Department also organized a forum entitled "Public relations and the United Nations: working together for change", in co-sponsorship with the International Public Relations Association (IPRA). The event was held on 2 June 1998 in conjunction with the presentation of the United Nations Award for excellence in public relations campaigns addressing priority issues of the United Nations, part of IPRA's Golden World Awards.

41. A photographic exhibit to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was displayed at Headquarters from December 1997 to March 1998. The exhibit then travelled to Geneva and Ottawa and will proceed to Washington, D.C. and Ramapo College in New Jersey, before returning to Headquarters on 10 December 1998. A public television service announcement based on the photographs will be aired worldwide later this year. The Department is also designing billboards on the Universal Declaration for display at the New York City and San Francisco airports. In cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) the Department co-sponsored several exhibits for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

The Department also designed and produced a special exhibit on 50 years of peacekeeping which opened on 6 October.

V. Implementation of specific information programmes

42. The Department continues to carry out the task of developing thematically integrated information programmes on priority issues for the United Nations. The focus is on implementing information strategies, promotional activities and public services that highlight, among others, the Organization's role in furthering sustainable development, peace and security, democracy, human rights, humanitarian assistance, and social and economic development.

43. *Development Update*, a publication on United Nations economic and social initiatives, has changed its format to include feature-style articles, while expanding its readership among corporate executives, journalists, academics and organizations of civil society. Articles from the publication, currently covering the development activities and viewpoints of the United Nations on a system-wide basis, are reprinted or cited by other publications with increasing frequency.

44. The Department has worked closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop a comprehensive strategy for the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The year-long observance was launched on Human Rights Day 1997 with a number of events organized by the Department at different venues. The Department has also been in contact with a number of airlines to publicize the fiftieth anniversary through pro-bono public service announcements in their in-flight magazines. On issues related to the fiftieth anniversary, the Department also organized events this year to mark International Women's Day (8 March), World Press Freedom Day (3 May), the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June), and the International Day of Indigenous People (9 August).

45. An important focus of the Department's activities in 1998 was the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem and international conferences on the establishment of an international criminal court and on youth. In cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Department completed a range of information materials for inclusion in the media kit widely disseminated for the special session. An extensive media campaign, developed with the Office of Legal Affairs, including multi-media products, a media kit and poster, preceded the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. The special publications and activities, planned in conjunction with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, the Portuguese Youth Council and Portuguese authorities, helped set the stage for the Third World Youth Forum of the United Nations system and the first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, both held in Portugal in August. These events were widely promoted through local and national activities organized by United Nations information centres and services around the world.

46. Outreach to the business community and to the financial media has been a key part of the Department's publicity on sustainable development, reflecting the aim of the Commission for Sustainable Development to strengthen partnerships with the business community. Resulting media coverage included, among others, the BBC World Business Report and World Service, and the *Financial Times*. Also, the Department issued a fact sheet, "Business and the United Nations", and an article highlighting examples of private-sector cooperation with organizations of the United Nations system. These were used at several events for business audiences organized by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, as part of the media outreach by the Department; they resulted in extensive media coverage.

47. Reflecting the heightened media outreach orientation of the Department, among recent innovations is a systematic global effort to place in the major international and national media articles on priority issues for the Organization written by the Secretary-General. In recent months, articles have been written on the need for United Nations involvement in constructing a response to the pressures and opportunities of globalization; on the rationale and necessity for an international criminal court; on intensifying the search for a political settlement which would address the humanitarian crisis in southern Sudan; and on building international and African support for mechanisms to reduce conflict and promote sustainable development in Africa.

48. In this vein, the Department was also able to foster widespread media coverage in virtually all Member States for two important United Nations items which might not otherwise have received the level of international notice they did: the first verdict of genocide by an international court, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in September; and the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflicts and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The media outreach on the latter marked the first use by the Department of the

Internet and electronic mail for the dissemination of significant public information materials.

49. The Department has expanded its circle of media outlets that regularly report the United Nations viewpoint on economic issues to include the major financial and business wire services, the Cable News Network (CNN) Financial Network, the Economist Intelligence Unit and influential publications such as the *Financial Times*, *Journal of Commerce* and *Business Investor's Daily*. Informative, attractively laid-out summaries of the *State of the World Economy at the Start of 1998* and of *World Economic and Social Survey 1998* and previews of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, of the high-level segment of the Council and of the report of the Committee on Development Planning were prepared and distributed by the Department, which also promoted major annual reports on trade and development, world investment and the least developed countries issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

50. The communications strategy and the programme of activities for the International Year of Older Persons in 1999 have moved ahead, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the NGO Committee on Ageing. The International Year was launched on 1 October by the Secretary-General at a special all-day event at Headquarters.

51. In support of the Organization's efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security, the Department has concentrated on three main areas: activities marking 50 years of United Nations peacekeeping; support for information components of field missions; and preparation and updating of products for posting on the Internet. As part of its support for information components of peacekeeping and other field missions, the Department continues to participate in early planning for those missions and maintains and updates its roster of potential candidates for field positions, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, United Nations Secretariat as the need arises.

52. In connection with the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Central African Republic (MINURCA) in April 1998, the Department provided relevant information materials designed to raise the visibility of the mission in the country. It also facilitated contacts between the Government of Denmark and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations regarding the Government's donation of an FM and shortwave radio facility to the United Nations for use in field missions, initially in MINURCA.

53. The Department published a number of feature articles highlighting United Nations peacekeeping activities. Most of the printed products on peacekeeping are also adapted for publication on the Internet. In addition, the Department maintains and frequently updates a series of Internet pages providing background information and basic facts on each peacekeeping mission, in English and in French.

54. The commemoration of 50 years of United Nations peacekeeping in 1998 provided the Department with an opportunity to work closely with the Department of Peace-keeping Operations in undertaking a number of public information activities and producing information materials designed to underscore the Organization's role in conflict prevention and to honour those who have served in such operations.

55. The Department has continued to publicize United Nations activities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. In cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization, it is preparing a brochure on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, using a grant from the Government of Finland. In anticipation of the signing ceremony of the International Treaty on the Ban of Landmines, a three-element press kit on the landmine issue and the role of the United Nations was published and made available at the conference site during the signing ceremony and was also posted on the United Nations website.

56. The Department continued its ongoing special information programme on the question of Palestine. It organized media seminars for the Asian and European regions, at New Delhi and Prague, respectively, under the theme "Prospects for Peace". The seminars brought together senior journalists representing prominent media organizations from the two regions with specialists from Israel, the Palestinian National Authority, and the neighbouring countries as well as from Europe and the United States of America. This fall, the Department is holding its fourth four-week Palestinian Media Practitioners Training Programme at Headquarters. Ten journalists are scheduled to attend the programme.

57. The 1998 Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries, which is taking place from 14 September to 22 October, will include participants from Argentina, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Congo, El Salvador, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, Malaysia, Namibia, Syrian Arab Republic and Zambia. Four

of the participants in the 1998 programme will be sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany. Since 1980, nearly 300 journalists from almost 150 countries have participated in the programme.

VI. Library services

58. Recognizing that electronic formats reduce geographical and physical barriers and facilitate the provision of value-added and cost-effective information services, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library has this year significantly expanded the following three major activities: the electronic "UN in the News Service" which offers daily, desktop delivery of major news stories concerning the Organization; the Dag Hammarskjöld Library's training programme in electronic information retrieval; and the electronic dissemination of time/mission-critical information via cc:Mail to permanent missions and staff at Headquarters and abroad.

59. With the aim of reducing expenditures throughout the United Nations system, the Library set up a consortium to access electronic information and now serves as its coordinating agency. Participating organizations share the cost of site licenses for electronic services of trans-organizational interest which can be delivered through the Internet. Currently there are over 20 members in the United Nations system taking advantage of these volume-driven subscription rates. As a further result of the consortium, the Library is now able to provide the permanent missions at Headquarters, at no cost to them, with equal access to the electronic information previously available only to the Secretariat staff.

60. The Library's Internet site has been expanded to include "Maps", a site containing up-to-date maps of current peacekeeping operations, available in both English and French, and a complete listing of electronic resources available in the Library, including its branch libraries. UN-I-QUE, a searchable database that provides access to the symbols and sales numbers of a broad range of United Nations documents from 1946 to the present and the human rights chapter of the United Nations documentation research guide (www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide) both received awards in 1998. The Library has continued to expand its training programme in retrieval and downloading of United Nations documentation and other information resources from the Internet. Over 2,000 individuals were trained in 1997 and 1998.

61. As of September 1998, there were 365 United Nations depository libraries in 141 countries. Their numbers by region are as follows: Asia and the Pacific (82); Western Asia (17); Africa (53); Europe (114, with 30 in Eastern and 84 in Western Europe); Latin America and the Caribbean (46); and North America (53, with 41 in the United States of America and 12 in Canada). Through workshops and other training seminars, the Library has continued to expand its training opportunities for United Nations depository librarians. Since 1997, nine workshops have been held to cover various regions. A joint inter-agency visits programme, which was recently launched, should facilitate the oversight of those libraries.

62. Recognizing that an increasing amount of information requires a cartographic medium for transport and exchange, during the past year the Department has taken several steps to assist with such a service. Windows-based workstations with the capability to operate the Geographic Information Systems software were acquired. When available, digital files of maps were also made available system-wide for use by other agencies. The maps of all peacekeeping operations were posted on the Internet and are being updated, as appropriate. It is expected that maps of all field operations will be added soon. The Department's cartographic services have proved particularly useful to the consultations of the Security Council, and several thousand copies of colour maps were distributed at meetings over the past year. A digital map display system was also introduced and is being operated on a daily basis.

VII. United Nations Publications Board and marketing of United Nations publications

63. Through the monthly meetings of its Working Committee, the Publications Board coordinated and monitored the 1998–1999 consolidated publications programme of the United Nations and gave high priority to enhancing the creation of an electronic United Nations through increased use of the Internet to widen the outreach of the Organization. Its Working Group on Electronic Publishing is currently preparing guidelines for Internet publishing to advise author departments, as appropriate, and further enhance and coordinate the United Nations website.

64. Sales of publications generated an excess of income over expenditure of US$ 1.77 million for the 1996–1997 biennium. Throughout the year, the Department continued to develop cooperative sales activities with other

organizations of the United Nations system and reached an agreement with UNICEF for the sale of its publications. Also, a programme for agencies to pool resources in order to have more effective marketing impact was introduced, leading to combined United Nations system exhibits at several important book fairs.

65. The United Nations publications home page provides regular updates on publications and has been highly commended by users. Complementing direct sale of publications, the Department expanded the development of co-published projects. Through these externally produced publications, with both commercial and not-for-profit entities, the Organization has been able to further disseminate its products, especially through locally produced language editions of its publications.

VIII. Publishing activities

66. The print medium remains one of the principal means of influencing public opinion around the world. Over the past year, the Department has worked to ensure that its publications promote the work of the United Nations system as a whole and emphasize the complementary ways in which the different parts of the system make a significant impact on the daily lives of people everywhere. Advances in desktop publishing, coupled with training in new design technologies, have enabled the Department overall to greatly enhance the design and marketability of the entire range of its print outputs and those of the Secretariat as a whole.

67. Promoting the centrality of the work of the United Nations system is the aim and purpose of *The United Nations in our Daily Lives*, a publication that the Department helped to produce and disseminate in early 1998. Likewise, a new section in the latest edition of *Basic Facts about the United Nations* provides essential information on all United Nations offices, programmes, funds and specialized agencies. *UN Chronicle* is increasingly becoming a news- and feature-oriented publication which appeals as much to the lay reader as to scholars and specialists. Regular sections have been added on health, development, reform and the environment.

68. The intense efforts by the United Nations system as a whole to assist Africa in realizing its economic and social objectives have been a particular focus of *Africa Recovery*. One entire issue of the magazine was devoted to the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. A special briefing paper, "Women in Africa's development", was produced in conjunction with a major conference on this issue organized by the Economic Commission for Africa.

69. The Department's publications continue to be adapted in light of the results of the 1997 readership survey on its recurrent publications, which confirmed their usefulness to key target audiences. The survey also confirmed the high interest in the issue of United Nations reform which continues to be covered extensively in various publications by the Department. New editions of *Image & Reality* and *UN in Brief* emphasize the reform measures, while providing an increased profile to system-wide priorities. Human rights was the theme of the second in the *UN Briefing Papers* series, "Human rights today: a United Nations priority", produced with the participation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem was the focus of a well-received issue of *UN Chronicle*, produced with the assistance of UNDCP.

70. In an example of the strong cooperation between the Department and substantive offices and agencies, in May this year the Department and the World Bank signed a new agreement concerning *Development Business*, the Department's international procurement publication. The agreement includes the joint development of an Internet version of the publication and broadens the cooperation between the two organizations in this area. The new website, is to be called "Development Business Online". Effective use of modern technology will also be instrumental in facilitating the production of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*. Work on the last of the backlog editions (1990) and on the 1996 edition has continued, and both are expected to be issued in the near future. Plans to produce a CD-ROM covering all 50 volumes of the *Yearbook* (1946–1996) are also under way. The site is expected to become a significant new source of revenue for this self-financing publication.

IX. United Nations information centres

71. During the past year, United Nations information centres took strategic steps to enhance their effectiveness in communicating information about the work of the Organization and presenting a unified message to constituents at the local level. They continued to forge dynamic partnerships with the private sector, established coalitions of non-governmental organizations, organized teams of student lecturers, and formed local coordinating committees on information, involving all United Nations system partners in the field. The provision of upgraded computer equipment and staff training advanced efforts by the centres to broaden their information outreach to local constituents, particularly schools and educational

institutions. Several centres applied desktop publishing capabilities to the production of locally relevant information materials, many of which were transmitted electronically to larger audiences. The information centres translated and disseminated more than 150 United Nations publications, documents and information products of the Department, covering the whole range of United Nations issues, including reform. Many produced their own radio and television programmes on the issues, for broadcast free of charge by local stations. Throughout the year, information centres also actively supported the work of United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies by publicizing their in-country projects and major reports.

72. Information centres helped attract high-visibility coverage for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reaching large audiences through television and radio programmes, newspaper supplements, press conferences, seminars, lectures, competitions, information fairs and rallies. Fifty information centres cooperated with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and local governmental and civic organizations to promote the observance of Human Rights Day 1997 and the launch of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration. Over the years information centres have produced more than 200 local-language versions of the Universal Declaration. This year, they produced some 45 local-language versions and disseminated thousands of copies in rural and remote communities around the world. The United Nations Information Centre in Madrid produced the first Braille version.

73. The Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa sparked a variety of activities by information centres, which cooperated with local partners to organize briefings and press conferences and to translate and widely disseminate the report. An op-ed article, "The Africa that Africa deserves", written by the Secretary-General, was translated, disseminated, and placed in major newspapers by a number of centres.

74. Some 47 information centres launched campaigns to publicize the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, bringing together high-level governmental officials, non-governmental organizations, health-care professionals and members of the judicial system in a public debate on illicit drug use and trafficking and the United Nations role in reducing production and demand. Information products of the Department on this subject were translated and widely disseminated by information centres into 14 languages: Arabic, Azeri, Bahasa Indonesia, Bangla, Czech, Dutch, Farsi, German, Greek, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. In some instances, centres also posted materials on their Internet home pages, published special editions of their monthly newsletters highlighting the special session, and prepared special brochures and press kits, often in cooperation with local partners. High-visibility broadcast time slots projecting the United Nations message on drug control, including UNDCP public service announcements, were secured on local and regional television networks in some 20 countries.

Annex

Major activities of the Department of Public Information in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/70 B*

		DPI and or Sales No.
	I. Institutional publications	
1	*Yearbook of the United Nations*, vol. 50 (1996), released in English in September	(97.I.1)
2	*UN Chronicle* (magazine): vol. XXXIV, No. 1 and No. 2, issued in French in February; No. 3, issued in French in June and in English in October 1997; No. 4, issued in English in February and in French in June; vol. XXXV, No. 1, issued in English in April; and No. 2, issued in English in June	
3	*Image and Reality* (reprint), booklet issued in English in January	1838/Rev.1
4	*Image and Reality* (new edition), booklet released in English in November	2003
5	*Charter of the United Nations* (reprint), booklet issued in English in October 1997, Arabic in December 1997, French and Spanish in July	511
6	General Assembly press kit, released in English, French and Spanish in August	1990
7	*Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization*, booklet issued in English, French and Spanish in September; Russian, Chinese and Arabic in October	1997
8	"United Nations conferences and observances", reference paper released in English and French in February	Ref. paper No. 37
9	"UN in Brief", booklet released in Arabic in October 1997; in Russian, Spanish and Chinese in November 1997; and issued as a reprint in English and French in July	1893
10	*Basic Facts about the United Nations*, book reprinted in English in November 1997 and in Spanish in June	1580
11	*Basic Facts about the United Nations* (new edition), book issued in English in August	1920
12	"An agenda for democratization", booklet reprinted in English in October 1997	1867
13	"Focus on reform", pamphlet released in English in November 1997 and reprinted in July	1934
14	"Focus on revitalizing the United Nations", pamphlet released in English in January and in French in February	1957
15	"An Agenda for Development", booklet released in English in November 1997	1935
16	*UN Briefing Papers*: "The world conferences", booklet released in Spanish in December 1997	1816
17	*UN Briefing Papers*: "The United Nations and human rights", booklet released in English in August	1998
18	*The United Nations and the Iraq/Kuwait Conflict* (Blue Book series), (reprint), book released in Arabic in December 1997	1770
19	*The United Nations and Human Rights* (Blue Book series), (reprint), book released in English in June	1676
20	"The quotable Kofi Annan", booklet released in English in March and reprinted in July, and released in French in June	
21	System's chart issued in English/French in July	1857
22	*UN in Our Daily Lives*, book released in English in May/July and in French in September	(E.98.I.11)
23	List of depository libraries receiving United Nations material (multilingual)	ST/LIB/12/Rev.15
24	"United Nations document series symbols cumulative edition, 1946–1996", issued in English	ST/LIB/SER.B/5/Rev.5
25	"Index to resolutions of the Security Council, 1946–1996", issued in English in 1997	ST/LIB/SER.H/5/Rev.1
26	"Water resources in the Middle East: a bibliography", issued in December 1997	DHL/USS/ECRD/BIB/4
27	"Dear United Nations ...", released in English in December 1997	1887/Rev.1
28	"An information guide for the public about the United Nations", released in English in April	1598/Rev.2

		DPI and or Sales No.
29	"This is the United Nations", released in English, French and Spanish in February	1938
30	"NGOs and the United Nations Department of Public Information: some questions and answers", brochure released in June 1997	1438/Rev.2
31	*The 1997–1998 Directory of Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the Department of Public Information*, released in June 1997, and a supplement in December 1997	1696/Rev.1 and Add.1
32	*JUNIC Information Exchange Bulletin*, issued in October and December 1997 and in January, April and June	
33	*1998 JUNIC Directory*, released in English in March	
	II. Thematic publications	
	A. Human rights	
1	"Universal Declaration of Human Rights", passbook reprint released in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish in August	876/Rev.2
2	International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, poster released in English, French and Spanish in April 1997	1813
3	"Impact of Armed Conflict on Children", booklet reprint released in English in August	1834
4	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 50th anniversary poster (multilingual) released in September 1997 and reprinted in May	1900
5	Human rights 50th anniversary logo reproduction sheet, released in English in September 1997 and reprinted in March	1928
6	Human rights 50th anniversary text reproduction sheet (multilingual), released in September 1997 and reprinted in March	1929/Rev.1
7	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 50th anniversary press kit cover released in English and French in December 1997	1937
8	"A Magna Carta for All Humanity", backgrounder on 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, released in English and French in March	1937/A
9	"Indigenous people: challenges facing the international community", backgrounder released in English and French in March	1937/B
10	"Human rights in action: monitoring compliance ...", backgrounder released in English and French in March	1937/C
11	Mary Robinson biographical note, press kit insert released in English and French in March	1937/D
12	Speech of Mrs. Mary Robinson, "Realizing human rights", press kit insert released in English and French in March	1937/E
13	"The right to development", backgrounder released in English and French in March	1937/F
14	"Universal Declaration of Human Rights illuminates global pluralism", speech by the Secretary-General at Tehran University, press kit insert released in English and French in March	1937/G
15	"The UN at your fingertips: questions and answers", brochure released in English in August (French version available on United Nations website)	1940
16	50th anniversary bookmark, released in English/French in February	1945
17	50th anniversary of Universal Declaration brochure, released in English in August	1967
18	"51st Annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference: the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", booklet released in August	2001
	B. International Criminal Court	
1	International Criminal Court logo reproduction sheet, released in English in March	1951
2	International Criminal Court text reproduction sheet (multilingual), released in March	1952
3	International Criminal Court poster (multilingual), released in May	1958
4	International Criminal Court press kit cover, released in English and French in May	1960

		DPI and or Sales No
5	"Crimes within the Court's jurisdiction", press kit backgrounder released in English and French in May	1960/A
6	"Trigger mechanisms ...", press kit backgrounder released in English and French in May	1960/B
7	"Bringing justice to the victims", press kit backgrounder released in English and French in May	1960/C
8	"Draft statute of the Court", press kit backgrounder released in English and French in May	1960/D
9	Information for media, press kit press release released in English and French in June	1960/E
10	Media advisory: United Nations to establish an International Criminal Court, released in English and French in June	1960/F
11	Hans Corell biography, press kit insert released in English and French in June	1960/G
12	"International Criminal Court", brochure released in English and French in May	1969
	C. Peace and security	
1	"United Nations peacekeeping operations", background notes released in December 1997 and May	1634/Rev.7, 8
2	"After Ottawa: what's next in the fight against landmines", fact sheet released in November 1997	1941
3	"Fighting landmines: the Ottawa process and the United Nations role", backgrounder newsletter, released in November 1997	1942
4	"The international response to landmines: an overview", fact sheet released in November 1997	1943
5	"In depth: field missions make waves, a look at broadcasting in United Nations peace operations", newsletter released in January	1956
6	"1997 year in review of United Nations peace missions", newsletter issued in December 1997	1947
7	"UNTAES completes mission", fact sheet released in January	1959
8	"United Nations peacekeeping – 50 years", a 2-sheet wall chart released in August	1987
9	*The Guatemala Peace Agreements*, book released in August	1989/(E.98.I.19)
10	Background note on third meeting on cooperation between United Nations and regional organizations, background note released in July	—
	D. Economic and social development	
1	*Development Business*, a bi-monthly newsletter, Nos. 472–495 released in English	
2	*Development Update*, a newsletter released in English in October 1997, March and July (issues 22, 23, 24)	1452
3	"World output cruising at 3 per cent growth in 1998 despite emerging market slowdown ...", press release issued in English in December 1997	—
4	"Can corporations stop worrying and learn to love the environment?", backgrounder released in English in April	1977
5	"Bretton Woods meets ECOSOC on global financial integration", press release issued in English in April	—
6	"Chiefs of top world economic institutions meet with ECOSOC on trade", press release issued in English in July	—
7	"UN survey tracks slowing world economy", press release issued in English in July	—
8	"Report on a proposal for a world financial organization", press release issue in English in July	—
9	"An overview", fact sheet issued in English in June 1998	1820/Rev.1
10	"Joint statement on common interests by UN Secretary-General and International Chamber of Commerce", press release (SG/2043), re-issued in English in June 1998 as part of this series	—
11	"New dimensions in cooperation: case studies from the UN system", backgrounder released in English in June	—
12	"Implementing the commitments of the Social Summit", backgrounder released in English in February	1966

		DPI and/or Sales No.
13	"United Nations principles for older persons", kit insert released in English, French and Spanish in April	1261/Rev.1
14	"National targets on ageing", kit insert released in English, French and Spanish in August	1262/Rev.1
15	International Year of Older Persons, 1999, logo reproduction sheet, released in English in June	1949
16	International Year of Older Persons, 1999, text reproduction sheet (multilingual), released in June	1950
17	International Year of Older Persons logo press release, kit insert released in English, French and Spanish in April	1962
18	International Year of Older Persons, 1999 kit cover, released in English and French in June	1964
19	"Local agenda on ageing in the 1990s", kit insert released in English, French and Spanish in April	1964/A
20	"Menu of ideas for activities at the national level", kit insert released in English, French and Spanish in April	1964/B
21	"Programme of Action for Disabled Persons", booklet reprint released in English in November 1997	933/Rev.1
22	"Standard Rules for Disabled Persons", booklet reprint released in French and Spanish in November 1997	1454
23	"Welcome to the United Nations", poster/brochure released in English in November 1997	1930
24	"The United Nations and disabled persons", backgrounder released in English in November 1997	1948
25	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, kit cover released in English in November 1997, French and Spanish in February	1807/Rev.1
26	"A United Nations objective: eradicate poverty", kit backgrounder released in English, French and Spanish in January	1933
27	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, poster released (multilingual) in January	1929
28	"The United Nations youth agenda", booklet released in English, French and Spanish in June	1926
29	"United Nations report on the global situation ...", backgrounder released in English in July	1994
30	"World Youth Forum", backgrounder released in English in July	1995
31	"United Nations Youth Fund", backgrounder released in English in July	1996
32	"End discrimination against women", brochure released in English in November 1997	995/Rev.2
33	"Women's anti-discrimination committee to hold its 18th session ...", press release issued in English in January	—
34	"Commission on the Status of Women", fact sheet released in English in February	1889/Rev.1
35	"Women's Anti-Discrimination Committee to hold its 19th session ...", press release issued in English in June	—
36	"Families: educators and providers of human rights", backgrounder released in English in April	1980
	E. Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem	
1	"Judicial cooperation to promote drug control", fact sheet released in English in March	1954/A
2	"Controlling chemical precursors", fact sheet released in English in March	1954/B
3	"Fighting money laundering", fact sheet released in English in March	1954/C
4	"Amphetamine-type stimulants – a problem requiring priority attention", fact sheet released in English in March	1954/D
5	*World Drug Report: Executive Summary*, released in English in March	1954/E
6	"Reducing illicit demand for drugs", fact sheet released in English in March	1954/F
7	"Eradication of illicit drug crops and alternative development", fact sheet released in English in March	1954/G
8	"Biography of the Executive Director of UNDCP, Pino Arlacchi", released in English in March	1954/H

		DPI and/or Sales No.
9	"Overview", released in English in March	1954/I
10	"UNDCP: facts and figures", information note released in English in March	1954/J
11	"Key statistics: illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption", information note released in English in March	1954/K
12	UNDCP contact list, released in English in March	1954/L
13	"Money laundering", backgrounder released in English in May	1982
14	"Bringing drug criminals to justice: the need for global cooperation", backgrounder released in English in May	1983
15	"Alternative development: moving away from drug crops", backgrounder released in English in May	1984
16	"Amphetamine-type stimulants: speeding towards the millennium", backgrounder released in English in May	1985
17	"Reducing the demand for drugs", backgrounder released in English in May	1986
	F. Sustainable development	
1	"Earth Summit+5 programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21", booklet released in English in April	1953
2	"Action to avert freshwater crisis to be focus of UN Earth Summit Commission", press release released in English in April	1976
3	"Bringing business to the UN table: talks on private-sector role in sustainable development to start 21 April", press release on Commission session, released in English in April	1975
4	"Review of business environment initiatives urged by UN Earth Summit Commission", press release on close of Commission on Sustainable Development, issued in English in May	—
5	"New UN Forum on Forests to open session 24 August", press release issued in English in August	2002
	G. Africa recovery	
1	*Africa Recovery* (quarterly periodical), vol. 11, No. 2, released in English in October 1997 and in French in November 1997; vol. 11, No. 3, released in English in February and in French in March; vol. 11, No. 4, special issue on the System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, released in English in March, in French in April and in Portuguese in June; vol. 12, No. 1, released in English in August and in French in September	
2	"Message from Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of UN-NADAF", released in English, French and Portuguese in April	1970
3	Briefing paper No. 11, "Women in Africa's development", released in English and French in April	1981
4	Briefing and summary of the Secretary-General's report: "The causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa", press materials released in English and French in April	1974
5	Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council: "The causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa", released in English and French in April	1978 (98.I.15)
	H. Fact sheets on the work of the United Nations	
1	"Setting the record straight: some facts about the United Nations", updated and released in English, French and Spanish in October 1997 (Rev.14) and in English in April (Rev.15)	1753/Rev.14–15
2	"The United Nations: protecting the global environment", updated and released in English in April 1998	1814/Rev.4
3	"The UN financial crisis at a glance", updated and released in English, French and Spanish in October (Rev.12) and in English in April (Rev.13)	1815/Rev.12–13
4	"The UN and business: a global partnership", extensively revised and released in English in June	1820/Rev.1
5	"United Nations conferences: what have they accomplished?" updated and released in English in April	1825/Rev.5

		DPI and/or Sales No.
6	"Setting the record straight: some facts about the United Nations", booklet compiling above-named fact sheets, issued in English in October 1997 and in April	1848/Rev.4–5
7	"UN peacekeeping: some questions and answers", updated and released in English, French and Spanish in October 1997 (Rev.6) and in English in April (Rev.7)	1851/Rev.6–7
8	"Setting the record straight: UN salaries and benefits", updated and released in English in April	1891/Rev.1
9	"Setting the record straight: what do people really think of the United Nations?", released in English in April	1963

The following fact sheets were issued in response to public enquiries as part of the Department's school out reach activities:

10 "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (full text with a read-easy version, including classroom exercises), released in English in July

11 "United Nations Member States: a directory", released in July

12 "Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice" (school version), released in English in November 1997

13 "United Nations website on the Internet", released in English in December 1997

14 "United Nations depository libraries in the United States", released in December 1997

15 "The United Nations system" (a directory), released in March

16 "In answer to your questions", a series of fact sheets dealing with frequently asked questions, released in English only

III. Briefings for non-governmental organizations

1 An overview of the fifty-second session of the UN General Assembly, 25 September 1997

2 Commemoration of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 9 October 1997

3 Commemoration of International Day for Older Persons, 16 October 1997

4 UN Disarmament, during the commemoration of UN Disarmament Week, 23 October 1997

5 DPI/NGO Consultation, 30 October 1997

6 The Framework Convention on Climate Change, in preparation for the Kyoto Conference, 6 November 1997

7 One year follow-up to the World Food Summit, 13 November 1997

8 Celebrating Thanksgiving: a world event, 20 November 1997

9 Commemoration of World AIDS Day, 4 December 1997

10 Launch of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1997

11 Landmines Convention: report from Ottawa, 11 December 1997

12 International Criminal Court, 18 December 1997

13 Presentation of UNHCR's report *State of the World's Refugees*, 8 January 1998

14 United Nations reform, 15 January 1998

15 Work of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, 22 January 1998

16 UN effort to combat global drug problems, in anticipation of the special session on drugs (8–10 June 1998, New York), 29 January 1998

17 The status of the international negotiations on the environment, with particular focus on the follow-up to Kyoto, 5 February 1998

18 Dialogue with NGO liaison officers within the United Nations system in New York, 12 February 1998

19 Culture and development (in anticipation of the intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, 30 March–2 April 1998), 19 February 1998

20 UN effort to combat global drug problems (in anticipation of the special session on drugs, 8–10 June 1998, New York), 26 February 1998

21 Commemoration of International Women's Day: women and human rights, 5 March 1998

22 Briefing on youth (in anticipation of two youth events in Portugal, August 1998), 12 March 1998

23 UNICEF's report *State of the World's Children: Children and Nutrition*, 19 March 1998

24 International Year of the Ocean, 26 March 1998

25 An update on population issues, 2 April 1998

26 Disarmament and UN reform, 9 April 1998

27 Trauma of environmental disasters: consequences to human health, 16 April 1998

28 The HABITAT Agenda and Agenda 21, 23 April 1998

29 Ageing & urbanizing: challenges and opportunities towards a community for all, 30 April 1998

30 Early childhood education: from an internal perspective, 7 May 1998

31 Commemoration of International Day of Families, 14 May 1998

32 Adult education, 21 May 1998

33 The Hague appeal for peace, 28 May 1998

34 Environment and human health: World Resources Institute report, 1998–1999, 4 June 1998

35 50th year of United Nations peacekeeping, 11 June 1998

IV. Video productions

1 "World Chronicle", 41 thirty-minute panel talk shows, released in English between 1 September 1997 and 31 August 1998 (Nos. 673–713)

2 "UN in Action", 59 three-to-five-minute video news magazines, released in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish between 1 September 1997 and 31 August 1998 (Nos. 522–580)

3 "CNN World Report", 67 two-and-one-half-minute video news magazine items (59 made from "UN in Action" plus 8 specials), produced for CNN in English between 1 September 1997 and 31 August 1998

4 "Year in Review 1997", a 15-minute video presenting highlights of the UN's activities during the year, in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish

5 "The International Law Commission: fifty years of legal association", a 12-minute video documentary on international law, in English

6 "For Everyone, Everywhere: the birth of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", a one-hour documentary on the history of the Universal Declaration and its relevance today, in English, French and Spanish

7 "The Menace of Landmines", a 14-minute documentary on the threat caused by landmines, in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish

8 "The United Nations and NGOs: 50 years of building partnerships", a 10-minute video to commemorate the 50th annual DPI/NGO conference, in English

9 "Human Rights", 60-second and 30-second public service announcements on human rights, in English, French and Spanish

10 "TV Forum – 1997", a 10-minute video about world media and its influence on international affairs, in English

11 "A Cybertale of Three Cities", a 30-minute documentary on Habitat issues, in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish

12 "No Place to Hide", a 30-minute documentary on peacekeeping issues, in Russian

13 "Secrets in the Sand", a 30-minute documentary on efforts to eliminate biological weapons, in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish

14 "Child of One Earth", update of a 10-minute video poem about the UN, in English, French and Spanish

V. Special radio feature programmes/series

1 Four one-hour live radio interviews with Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; James Gustave Speth, United Nations Development Programme Administrator; Deputy Secretary-General Louise Fréchette; and Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Broadcasts were also made available on the Internet, courtesy of Media-on-Demand, a New York-based communications company

2 Twelve 15-minute radio feature/documentary programmes on the issue of population growth and development needs in Africa, produced in English and adapted into Hindi and Kiswahili

3 Ten featurettes on human rights and population, released in English

4 Twelve 15-minute radio feature/documentary programmes on population growth and development needs in Africa, produced in French

5 Two radio feature programmes on endangered languages, produced in English and Spanish

6 Eight programmes on the world drug problem, including reducing the demand for illegal drugs and money laundering, produced in English, Spanish and Russian

7 Three programmes on United Nations peacekeeping efforts, produced in Arabic, English, Russian and Spanish

8 Six public service announcements on United Nations peacekeeping, in Russian

9 Six programmes on the advancement of women, produced in Arabic, French and Spanish

10 Six programmes on indigenous people, produced in Spanish

11 Two programmes on the Secretary-General's report on Africa, produced in English, French and Spanish

12 Two radio feature programmes on saving the ozone layer, produced in English and adapted into Hindi

13 Three programmes on the impact of armed conflict on children, produced in English and Spanish

VI. Electronic publishing

A. DPI publications online

1 *Image & Reality* <http://www.un.org/geninfo/ir> (Posted also in French and Spanish)

2 *UN in Brief* <http://www.un.org/Overview/brief.html (Posted also in French, Russian and Spanish)

3 Annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, 1998 <http://www.un.org/Docs/SG/Report98 (Posted also in French, Russian and Spanish)

4 "The quotable Kofi Annan" <http://www.un.org/Docs/SG/quotable> (Posted also in French)

5 *UN Focus Series*: "Secretary-General sets course for long-awaited UN revitalization" <http://www.un.org/Reform/focus.htm> (Posted also in French)

6 Secretary-General's report to the Security Council: "The causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/ afrec/sgreport> (Posted also in French, Russian and Spanish)

7 *Africa Recovery* <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec> (Posted also in French)

8 *UN Chronicle* (extracts) <http://www.un.org.Pubs/chronicle> (Posted also in French)

9 *UN briefing papers*: "The world conferences: developing priorities for the twenty-first century" (abbreviated version) <http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/worconf.html> (Posted also in French)

10 "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" <http://www.un.org/reform/track2> (Posted also in French, Russian and Spanish)

11 UN Charter <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter> (Posted also in French, Russian and Spanish)

12 "General Assembly takes decisive action on UN reform" <http://www.un.org/reform/focus.htm> (Posted also in French)

13 Fifty-third session of the General Assembly (press kit) <http://www.un.org/ga> (Posted also in French)

B. Original output by the Department available only on the Internet

1 CyberSchoolBus. This United Nations interactive educational Internet site has been averaging over 200,000 hits a week. New resources include InfoNation, an interactive database of countries, which has been among the best-rated resources on the Internet (including French and Spanish). New teaching modules and projects included in the site <http://www.un.org/Pubs/cyberschoolbus> are:

(a) The Peace Poem, a collaborative poem put together online by almost 500 schools around the world, also published in print;

(b) The landmines project, in which students around the world raised money for demining. Teaching units and other resources included;

(c) Projects in commemoration of the 50th anniversaries of peacekeeping and human rights

2 The United Nations Bookshop home page. Customers around the world can visit the United Nations Bookshop and view its variety of products, including books, posters and gift items <http://www.un.org/Pubs/whatnew/bookstor.htm>

3 The United Nations publications home page. The Sales and Marketing section/LPD/DPI home page contains comprehensive information on all products available and on the activities of the Section. The site has accumulated 1,633,338 hits since September 1997 and has earned over US$ 100,000 in sales since its inception. Numerous countries have availed themselves of it. It is a primary source of timely information on new publications for libraries, educators, private enterprise and Governments around the world. <http://www.un.org/publications>

C. Home page design/United Nations materials made available by the Department of Public Information on the Internet

1 General Assembly fifty-third session home page. Among the materials made available are:

(a) Annotated preliminary list of items to be included in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (English and French);

(b) Supplementary list of items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (English and French);

(c) Provisional agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly (English and French);

(d) Information for delegations (English and French);

(e) Annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, 1998;

(f) The general debate via webcasting

2 Russian home page

3 Expanded Spanish home page, including daily Spanish language radio broadcasts

4 Home page for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (8–10 June 1998)

5 Home page for International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June 1998)

6 Home page for United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (15 June–17 July 1998, Rome)

7 Home page for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (8–12 August 1998, Lisbon)

8 1998 calendar of special events at United Nations Headquarters

9 Pages on the UN website devoted to general information on peacekeeping operations and special representatives of the Secretary-General, updated regularly

10 New material for posting on peacekeeping operations: the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone

11 New Internet resources, including listings of Security Council and General Assembly meetings on film and video, and "United Nations information centres: news from around the world" with links to information centre websites worldwide

12 Audio and video segments of the noon briefings by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General

D. Dag Hammarskjöld Library's online research tools

1 "Documents alert", a service to identify important United Nations documents, includes brief annotations <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/da>

2 "UN-I-QUE" (United Nations Information Quest), a ready-reference file providing quick access to document symbols and sales numbers of United Nations materials, from 1946 <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/unique>

3 United Nations documentation research guide, updated daily, provides for librarians and information professionals an overview of the types of United Nations documents available on subjects of current interest, including women, human rights, rights of the child and torture. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide>

E. Joint ventures

In cooperation with ICSC, the publication Schedule of Daily Subsistence Allowance Rates (DSAR) was made available on the Internet as a subscription-based service to complement the existing print version. <http://www.un.org/Pubs/whatnew/dsar.htm>

			Number
	VII. Other major activities[**]		
1	United Nations Television		
	(a) Bookings:		
	Events covered		2 740
	In-house services (dubbing, mixing, narrating, etc.)		2 149
	Services to outsiders (broadcasters, correspondents)		712
	Total		5 601
	(b) Requests:		
	Tape requests		1 014
	Tapes duplicated		1 502
	(c) Service to syndicators:		
	Feeds		3 659
	Packages		2 160
2	Audio-visual libraries:		
	(a) Audio:		
	Events covered		4 357
	Incoming materials:	Feeds	1 157
		Interviews	498
		Radio Programmes	3 526
	Dubs		40 679
	Loans		7 151
	(b) Visual:		
	Requests (including research)		1 115
	Video tape duplications (excluding film transfers done by an outside film lab)		1 066
	Events/productions logged		2 521
	Items requiring in-depth cataloguing (including conversion of index cards)		825
3	Photo		
	Photos downloaded from UN website		1 683 282
	Customer requests		2 355
	Photographs distributed		21 111
4	Press releases produced in English and French		3 948
5	Coverage of briefings and press conferences		420
6	"Daily Highlights"		251
7	Radio news magazines		410
8	Radio features/regional news magazines		1 245
9	"World in Review" radio programmes		31
10	Radio telephone feeds		1 424
11	Radio bulletins on electronic bulletin board		840
12	Radio daily news postings on the Internet (English and French as of 4 March; Spanish as of 22 June)		303
13	Permanent accreditation of correspondents processed at Headquarters		2 465
14	Temporary accreditation of correspondents processed at Headquarters		3 180

		Number
15	Participants in the guided tours at Headquarters (January–July)	261 819
16	Group briefings organized by the Department (January–July)	
	(a) Briefings	678
	(b) Participants	47 447
17	Queries from the public answered by the Public Inquiries Unit at Headquarters (January–July)	47 417
18	Exhibits shown at Headquarters	23
	Dag Hammarskjold Library (July 1997–June 1998)	
19	United Nations depository libraries around the world	365
20	United Nations documents and publications acquired by the Library	88 221
21	Specialized agency documents and publications acquired	6 454
22	External materials acquired	70 008
23	Exchange arrangements with institutions throughout the world	1 226
24	Electronic resources in the Library (number of databases)	148
25	Records added to UNBIS	68 020
26	Missions, Governments and intergovernmental offices with online access to UNBIS	247
27	Reference queries	71 470
28	Loans processed	58 466
29	Materials photocopied for Library users (number of pages)	783 128
30	Group training sessions on Library United Nations documentation and the Internet	251
31	Preparation of new maps	29
32	Preparation of new peacekeeping maps	5
33	Preparation of *Treaty Series* maps	211
34	Revision of peacekeeping maps	31
35	Provision to the Security Council of colour copies of maps	1 387

* All months given are in 1998, unless otherwise indicated.

** Items 1–14 reflect the period 1 September 1997–31 August 1998.